

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 2, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 9 and 17 – 20 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,821,760 B1

5 Furthermore, claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Koeman in view of US Patent 6,636,048 A (Sciacero et al.).

In the same office action, the Examiner explicitly acknowledges the patentability

10 of the subject matter of claims 2 – 6 and 10 – 14, if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, the features of claim 2 have been incorporated into the independent

claim 1 and the features of claim 10 have been incorporated into the independent

claims 8 and 9. In this regard, the applicant submits that currently amended

15 claims 1, 8 and 9 and their respective dependent claims are now novel and non-

obvious over the prior art.

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Conclusion

In the light of the above-mentioned claim amendments, the applicant respectfully
5 requests for a timely issuance of the Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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